30. A method of controlling pests, which comprises applying a composition, as defined in claim 23, to the pests or their environment.

31. A method for the protection of plant propagation material, which comprises treating the plant propagation material or the site where the propagation material is brought out with the composition according to claim 23.

B' cont.

32. A process for the preparation of a composition as defined in claim 23 which comprises intimately mixing the active compounds with one or more formulation auxiliaries. - -

REMARKS

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-20, without prejudice, and substituted therefor new claims 23-32 in response to the restriction requirement. Applicants reserve the right to file divisional applications for cancelled subject matter and claim the benefits hereof. No new matter has been added by any of these amendments.

Applicants hereby elect to prosecute the invention of new claims 23-32 for the combination of compound (A) and fipronil. A revised copy of the claims is attached herewith.

In the Preliminary Amendment filed November 20, 2000, Applicants amended the specification to include the statement that this application is a continuation of Serial No. 09/171,700, now abandoned. Applicants hereby claim priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) for the instant application based on the priority claim made in the parent application, 09/171,700.

Respectfully submitted,

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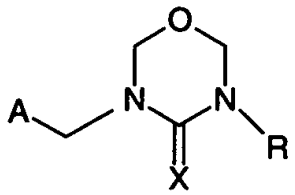
Revised Claims

23. A composition for controlling insects or representatives of the order Acarina, which comprises an effective insecticidal or acaricidal combination of one or more compounds of the formula



(A),

in which

A is an unsubstituted or mono- to tetrasubstituted, aromatic or non-aromatic monocyclic or bicyclic heterocyclic radical, in which the substituents of A are selected from the group consisting of C_1-C_3alkyl, C_1-C_3alkoxy, halogen, halo-C_1-C_3alkyl, cyclopropyl, halocyclopropyl, C_2-C_3alkenyl, C_2-C_3alkynyl, halo-C_2-C_3alkenyl, halo-C_2-C_3alkynyl, halo-C_1-C_3alkoxy, C_1-C_3alkylthio, halo-C_1-C_3alkylthio, allyloxy, propargyloxy, allylthio, propargylthio, haloallyloxy, ahloallylthio, cyano and nitro;

R is hydrogen, C_1-C_6alkyl, phenyl-C_1-C_4alkyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, C_2-C_6alkenyl or C_2-C_6alkynyl; and

X is N-NO_2 or N-CN,

in the free form or in salt form, optionally tautomers thereof, in the free form or salt form, and the compound:

(XLI) fipronil;

and at least one formulation auxiliary.

24. A composition according to claim 23 in which, in the compound of formula (A), the cyclic base skeleton of A contains 2 to 4 double bonds.

25. A composition according to claim 23 in which, in the compound of the formula (A), the cyclic base skeleton of A contains 1 up to and including 4 heteroatoms.

26. A composition according to claim 25 in which, in the compound of the formula (A), the cyclic base skeleton of A contains 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms, selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen, not more than one of the heteroatoms contained in the cyclic base skeleton being an oxygen or a sulfur atom.

27. A composition according to claim 23 in which, in the compound of the formula (A) the cyclic base skeleton of A is mono-or disubstituted by substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen and C_1-C_3alkyl.

28. A composition according to claim 27 in which, in the compound of the formula (A), the cyclic base skeleton of A is a pyridyl, 1-oxidopyridinio or thiazolyl group.

29. A composition according to claim 23 in which, in the compound of the formula (A), X is N-NO_2.

30. A method of controlling pests, which comprises applying a composition, as defined in claim 23, to the pests or their environment.

31. A method for the protection of plant propagation material, which comprises treating the plant propagation material or the site where the propagation material is brought out with the composition according to claim 23.

32. A process for the preparation of a composition as defined in claim 23 which comprises intimately mixing the active compounds with one or more formulation auxiliaries.